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ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) - ISO/IEC 10646

Secretariat: ANSI

Title:	Response to WG2-N2713 - Combining right dot above
Source:	TCA (Dr Kaihsu Tai, Dr Henry Tan-Tenn and Dr Pochung Chen)
Action:	To be considered by the Unicode Technical Committee (UTC) and JTC1/SC2/WG2 meeting 45 (2004); UTC to assign code-point for COMBINING RIGHT DOT ABOVE
Distribution:	UTC and JTC1/SC2/WG2 experts
Reference	WG2 N1593, N2507, N2628, N2669, N2626, N2699, N2713

After reviewing China's N2713 ('Revised Proposal for encoding A Supplemented Set of IPA Combining Marks, Modifier Letters & Five-Degree Contour Tone Marks in the BMP of the UCS'), we provide the following response:

We appreciate China National Body's confirmation of the historical use of the proposed character COMBINING DOT ABOVE RIGHT in the first figure, Part VI, N2713, and welcome their support for the encoding thereof.

However, we note that the orthographies used by Elihu Doty (1853), Carstairs Douglas (1873), and William Campbell (1913), did not work in the context of the International Phonetic Alphabet (1886), a phonetic transcription scheme. These, and the successor Peh-oe-ji, were intended and used as full-fledged writing systems -- orthographies -- hence the appearance of this character in non-linguistic, popular works (Klötter 2002, 2003).

It is therefore inappropriate to encode this character in A900, within the proposed 'IPA Combining Diacritical Marks & Tone-letter System' block. We request the Unicode Technical Committee and WG2 to encode this in a Latin block suitable for Combining Diacritics.

References:

- Campbell, William. 1913. *A dictionary of the Amoy vernacular spoken throughout the prefectures Chin-chiu, Chiang-chiu and Formosa (Taiwan)*. Tainan: Renguang Chubanshe.
- Doty, Elihu. 1853. *Anglo-Chinese manual with romanized colloquial in the Amoy dialect*. Canton: S. Wells Williams.
- Douglas, Carstairs. 1873. *Chinese-English dictionary of the vernacular or spoken language of Amoy, With the principal variations of the Chang-chew and Chin-chew dialects*. London: Trübner & Co.
- Klöter, Henning. 2002. The history of Peh-oe-ji. In the *Proceedings of the 2002 Peh-oe-ji Symposium*. Taitung, Taiwan: National Taitung Teachers' College.
- _____. 2003. *Written Taiwanese*. Ph.D. dissertation. Universiteit Leiden.